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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 004313

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [KDEM](#) [KISL](#) [KWMN](#) [KU](#) [ISLAMISTS](#)

SUBJECT: FREEDOM AGENDA: MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD SPOKESMAN SAYS
ORGANIZATION COMMITTED TO WORKING WITHIN POLITICAL SYSTEM

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) The Political Relations Head for the Islamic Consensus Movement (ICM), the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in Kuwait, told Poloff in a recent meeting that his organization is committed to working within Kuwait's political system as outlined by the Constitution. Mohammed Al-Dallal discounted political opponents' skepticism about the organization's commitment to democratic government, pointing to the ICM's long history of political participation in Kuwait and noting the organization has never resorted to violence to achieve its objectives. Al-Dallal emphasized that the ICM eschews violence and condemns terrorist attacks against civilians, though he noted that attacks against Israeli soldiers are permissible. With several thousand members, the ICM is one of the largest political associations in Kuwait and is currently preparing itself to become a political party, Al-Dallal said.

2. (C) Al-Dallal agreed with rumors that the Government paid seven million KD (24 million USD) to garner enough support to pass legislation granting women the right to vote. When pressed, he admitted that he knew a National Assembly member who received a 500,000 KD (1.7 million USD) bank transfer from a government official to vote for the reform; he did not specify who received or gave the money.

3. (C) Al-Dallal explained that the ICM opposed women's suffrage legislation for social, not religious, reasons. Asked what the ICM's position was now that women's political rights had been granted, Al-Dallal said the ICM would actively court women's votes and is even considering nominating one or more female candidates in the 2007 parliamentary elections. The women's issue was hotly debated within the party, Al-Dallal said, noting that the ICM's position against the reform only passed by two votes among the 70 ICM members with voting privileges; both Al-Dallal and ICM Secretary General Bader Al-Nashi supported women's suffrage. Al-Dallal claimed the ICM would not/not try to reverse women's political rights if the organization gained political power.

4. (C) Bio note: Mohammed Al-Dallal, who appears to be in his late-thirties, is a partner at Al Khebra Legal Consultants and Lawyers. He graduated from the Faculty of Law at Kuwait University in 1989, and received a master's in banking law from the University of Buckingham, England in 1997. Al-Dallal is a member of various organizations, including: the Kuwait Bar Association, the International Bar Association, and the British Arbitration Authority. Prior to joining Al Khebra, he served as Deputy Attorney General in the Department of Legal Advice and Legislation, which advises the Council of Ministers on legal matters. At Kuwait University, Al-Dallal was actively involved in the Coalition Group, a student party affiliated with the ICM, and was twice elected as head of the university's influential Student Union. He speaks excellent English.

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